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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Sumgait Airfield

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1. The airfield, about three miles northwest of SUNGAIT (49°37' E/40°33' N), Azerbaijan SSR, west of the railroad line and road, bordering on the village of Nasosny (49°33' E/40°36' N) on the north (see Annex).
2. The airfield, about 5,000 x 8,200 feet, extended along the railroad line. A railroad spur track led to the fuel dump on the northern edge of the field.
3. The following buildings were in the northern section:
 - a. Two steel repair hangars, 160-feet square each, vaulted roofs, with control posts.
 - b. Twelve to fifteen solid two-story and three-story quarters buildings east of the railroad line. They were occupied by Soviet officers and their dependents.
 - c. A fuel dump with 10 containers, about 16 feet underground and extending 6 to 10 feet above the surface, diameter of container from 16 to 20 feet.
 - d. An instrument landing or DF cabin.
4. An asphalt parking site was not far from the hangars.
5. The airfield was occupied by about 200 jet fighters and propeller-driven fighters parked along the field border.
 - a. Propeller-driven fighter: Single in-line engine, two-bladed propeller, low-wing monoplane, straight leading edge of wing, trailing edge slanting to the fore, cut-off wing tips, single rudder assembly, landing gear probably retracting outward, front section of fuselage somewhat shorter than section aft of wings, tortoise-shaped cockpit set between edges of wings.
 - b. Jet fighter (see Annex): One jet power plant set in fuselage and probably extending as far as trailing edge of wing, air intake in nose, leading and trailing edges of wings tapering to the fore and slightly curved at the same angle, rounded wing tips, landing gear retracting inward,

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nose wheel, streamlined cockpit between nose of fuselage and leading edge of wings. Weapons: Two fuselage machine guns side by side in air intake aperture, two machine guns at two bulges of leading edge of wings. The plane closely resembled the Me-109 but was faster and not so maneuverable.

6. Flying activity: Formation flying (wedge formations of four), firing at sleeve targets towed by a biplane, acrobatics. Group flying was practiced by the propeller driven planes in formations of up to 30 planes and by the jet fighters in formations of 10 to 15 aircraft. This number of planes was probably the proportionally correct occupation of the field.

7. Three AA gun emplacements of five or six guns each were about 800 feet north of the field.

8. A considerably heavy AAA occupation along both sides of the railroad line was observed [redacted] when passing along the Baku seashore on his way to Germany in August 1949. About every two to three miles there was a tent camp occupied by 300 to 500 men, mostly with an emplaced AA battery of four or five unlimbered AA guns.

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Attachment: Sketch of Sumgait Airfield; Jet Fighter Type Observed at the Field.

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